

City Manager's



Weekly Update Friday, August 31, 2007

Notes of Interest:

Power outages: Hot weather is the suspected culprit for power outages that affected 2,700 electric utility customers Wednesday and Thursday. Wednesday's outage affected customers on two circuits between Lower Sacramento Road and Mills Avenue, and from Cochran Road to Century Boulevard, affected 1,400 customers of the utility's 27,000 metered customers. It began at 5:37 p.m.

Most of the City's customers had power restored by 7:08 p.m., with the final customer's power restored at 10:51 p.m. The cause of the outage to approximately 800 customers was traced to aging conduit in a transformer vault at Vine Street and Laver Court, and a failed electrical switch in a cabinet at Mills Avenue and Century Boulevard caused the outage for another 600.

Thursday's outage, which occurred at 12:22 p.m., affected 1,300 customers southwest of Kettleman Lane and Mills Avenue. A blown circuit fuse was determined to be the outage cause and power to the final 28 customers was restored at 3:19 p.m.

Sewer pipeline “over” grown: In researching the wastewater pipeline rehabilitation/replacement, Public Works staff found that farmers in the last 40 years planted crops over the City easement. This is not expected to be much of an issue with the current pipeline work, but could affect property owners if more invasive construction is required.

“5-Percent” report: The state issued its “5 Percent” report of the State’s most accident-prone stretches, intersections and freeway ramps. Lodi, including Highway 12, avoided inclusion in the list.

State Supreme Court ruling: The California Supreme Court ruled on the matter of whether individual public employees’ pay is a matter of public record. The court ruled on Monday, Aug. 27, that it is in the public interest to know how much money government employees make. The case regarded employees who earned \$100,000 a year or more, but the language in the ruling made it clear it applies to all government workers.

Employee of the quarter: Scott Howsden, a building inspector, was the City’s employee of the quarter for his customer service. Not only was he nominated by his department’s staff, but a customer made an unsolicited call to the City that was highly complimentary in the way he approaches his job and helps customers comply with building codes.

Bank erosion: Members of the Public Works and Parks & Recreation departments, along with a couple engineers, toured the Mokelumne River near Pig’s Lake, where the river has eroded much of the bank. Interim P&R Director Steve Dutra said a 100-foot stretch of the bank was repaired in the same area, but now the problem is at least three times larger. The engineers, who will write a letter of proposal for repairs, said they’re convinced the reason is partly natural and partly due to the wake of motorized watercraft.

Sons of Champlin: The Bay Area group performs Sept. 22 at Hutchins Street Square with one die-hard fan flying in from Connecticut for the show.

Waiting for the glass: The County is waiting for an order of special glass to arrive at the new Lodi courtroom before it can finish construction. The back-order is putting the construction, originally expected to be completed by the end of August, behind schedule.

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